



Forging a Future Together in Education

HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Bin Abdulaziz, the Minister of Education, shares in the company's vision of building a knowledge-based Kingdom as he jointly launches the new iDiscover Knowledge Incubator with Khalid A. Al-Falih, Saudi Aramco president and CEO.

See page 5



Always active in safety in 'Udhailiyah

Photo: Ahmad El Itani/MPD

- Saudi Aramco president and CEO Khalid A. Al-Falih is briefed by Saqr Al-Otaibi from the Gas Operations Academy, left, on the training courses offered by the academy to all Gas Operations employees. Al-Falih's visit was part of the May 5 Executive Management Safety Review for 'Udhailiyah, which includes the Haradh area.

Cover Story

► **Safety highlights in Haradh in 2013** were a 45 percent increase in employees' use of public transportation and installing AVLS in 30 percent of company vehicles.

► **Gas and oil operations in the 'Udhailiyah area launched 23 campaigns** targeting the local community, with more than 700,000 people participating.

► **Even with the successes, the CEO emphasized** the need for continued diligence in the field of safety and the importance of raising traffic safety awareness.

See full story on page 7

Saudi Aramco by the Numbers

118,400

is the number of students who received traffic safety education through Saudi Aramco efforts.



All About

CORONA

Saudi Aramco Medical Services provides the latest update on the Coronavirus and how to prevent it from spreading.

See page 11



Photo: Mohammed Al-Shaikh/MPD

■ Participants in the Inspection Department's Quality Day Forum at the Technical Exchange Center in Ras Tanura pose for a photo after the event.

OPEC Basket Weekly Price trend for the past five weeks:

Friday, April 11, 2014 — **\$103.47**
 Friday, April 18, 2014 — **\$105.40**
 Friday, April 25, 2014 — **\$105.22**
 Friday, May 2, 2014 — **\$104.53**
 Friday, May 9, 2014 — **\$103.92**

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 Saudi Aramco

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Director, Publishing Division: Haitham Al-Jehairan
 Editors: Jamsheed Din, Todd Williams
 Editorial staff: Ted Brockish, Eamonn Houston, Scott Baldauf, Jeff McCoshen, Rawan Nasser.

Correspondence may be addressed to the editor, R-87, Dhahran Heights, Building 9156 (D Wing)
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Inspection Department focuses on project quality

RAWAN A. AL-MUAMMAR
RAS TANURA — The Inspection Department (ID) recently hosted the Quality Day Forum at the Technical Exchange Center in Ras Tanura.

The forum, held under the theme of "Toward Project Quality Improvement," was designed to promote a culture of quality through discussing current project quality challenges and providing opportunities to share ongoing quality techniques and initiatives in company projects.

Khalid Al-Ghamdi, chairman of the Project Quality Committee, welcomed attendees to the event. He was followed by Abdulaziz Fallatah, manager of ID, who emphasized the importance of such forums in sharing quality challenges, lessons learned, and upcoming project initiatives and requirements toward quality improvements.

"When it comes to quality, there is always room for improvement, and our motto remains 'No compromise on quality — ever, under any circumstance,'" he said. "It is very important for each organization that is looking for excellence to have their engineers equipped or mastered on quality tools and techniques."

About 200 people attended the forum, representing all project stake-

"When it comes to quality, there is always room for improvement, and our motto remains: 'No compromise on quality — ever, under any circumstance.'"

— Abdulaziz Fallatah

holders, including facilities proponents, Saudi Aramco Project Management teams, project contractors and subcontractors, manufacturers, inspection services agencies, service providers, central engineering services through the Inspection and Consultant Services Department, as well as others.

In an effort to promote networking, each table was set up with a blend of these stakeholders.

During the forum, seven presentations on various topics were shared, including:

- "PQI Analysis toward Continual Improvement" by Abdullah Al-Shaiban of ID.
- "Corrosion Management Program (CMP) in Capital Projects" by Sami Al-Ghamdi of CSD.
- "Equipment Deficiency Report (EDR) Process" by Meshari Al-Otaibi of

ID.

- "Contribution of the Inspection Department toward Manufacturing Process Improvement" by Salam Al-Sowaidan of ID.

- "Toward Zero Valves Premature Failure" by Musa Al-Harbi of CSD.

- "Saudi Aramco EPM Implementation Project" by Ibrahim Al-Khodairi of the Corporate Business Applications Department.

- "Lessons Learned Program" by Majdi Saleh of the Project Management Office Department.

The event concluded with a recognition ceremony where Fallatah presented certificates of appreciation to the speakers and the organizing team.

In his closing remarks, Adel Al-Humoud, ISSD division head, thanked the speakers and the organizing team for making the forum a success.

Your Voice

Where there's a problem, there's also a solution

Most of us working with Saudi Aramco are engineers, and all of us encounter challenges and problems at work that need to be resolved. Solutions to these problems must include aspects of safety and feasibility.

Do we have a pet procedure or a typical flow chart for solving problems? The answer is no as the challenges that arise are almost always new and problems are seldom repetitive.

Problem solving depends on many factors, but the most important is one's mind set. When addressing a problem, be open minded that all problems have solutions and all challenges can be overcome.

"Do it. Fix it. Try it" is my favorite axiom. As Karl Weick notes, chaotic action is preferable to orderly inaction.

Let's consider some factors that are crucial for problem solving.

In-depth technical knowledge: Problem solving requires deep technical knowledge and a solid background in the related field. Engineers and technicians who are familiar with the systems, operations and production are the ones who



Motsham Manzour
 Dhahran

motsham.manzour@aramco.com

will be at the forefront, finding solutions and offering alternatives when a system failure occurs and crucial production halts. Let's be up front and clear that a very dedicated, enthusiastic, energetic and honest person will not be worthwhile in finding a real-world solution unless he acquires knowledge in the related field. Saudi Aramco provides an incredible amount of opportunities for employees for learning in the related field through mentorship, e-Learning, in-house training courses, courses abroad and so on.

Experience: Experience does matter, and there really is no alternative to hands-on experience.

Many times, experienced engineers and technicians better understand system operations and are able to approach a problem by recalling and using techniques adopted during previous encounters.

Teamwork: Teamwork cannot be emphasized enough. Two minds are better than one, and when many work together — each looking at the same problem but from a different angle, trying to bring a solution to the table — there is always a way out.

Communication: Transparent and clear communication is imperative to problem solving and finding the root of the matter. It is a leader's ability to facilitate an open dialog between people who trust his or her intentions and feel that they are in a safe environment to share why they believe the problem happened and how to solve it.

Methodical and systematic approaches: Many systems require a systematic and orderly approach where the method of elimination might be used to pinpoint the problem, reach a conclusion or find a viable alternative.

Vendors, manufacturers and service providers: Vendors and

manufacturers can help greatly. They are the ones who provide equipment and machines and then make them work as a system. Manufacturers have a deep understanding of their equipment and systems, and they like to see their system operating and functioning correctly. Most of the manufacturers have support available via telephone or email, and they will come on-site if necessary.

Friendship and connections:

Saudi Aramco has a big pool of expertise in all fields of engineering where personal friendships will be worthwhile to seek advice when encountering a problem. It is human nature that people tend to give a balanced opinion when they are approached in a friendly manner and outside of the official channels.

There have always been, and will be, challenges and problems, and there will always be solutions. It is with conviction and knowledge in combination with techniques that suit a particular situation by which we will find them.

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the publication.



■ Khalid A. Al-Falih and other members of senior and corporate management pose with winners of the 10th annual President's Award for Environmental Stewardship at a ceremony held in Dhahran.

Leading by example in environmental stewardship

SCOTT BALDAUF
DHAHRAN — Saudi Aramco leads by example when it comes to environmental stewardship in the communities where it operates and where its employees live. Leading by example means going beyond words to changing behaviors and taking concrete actions, and once a year, the company takes the time to applaud its successes and identify remaining challenges.

This year, at the 10th annual President's Award for Environmental Stewardship ceremony held April 23, Khalid A. Al-Falih, Saudi Aramco president and CEO, recognized four organizations whose environmental efforts have been exceptional. The ceremony was a sign that the company takes its role of Citizenship very seriously, putting words into plans and plans into action.

- Departments receiving the award included:
- Operating Organizations**
 - Central Region Distribution Department.
 - North Ghawar Producing Department.
 - Support Services Organization**
 - Central Community Services Department.
 - Most Improved Facility**
 - Ras Tanura Refinery Operations.

In giving the awards, Al-Falih said, "I want to congratulate the departments that were recognized, their teams and all the employees behind them, and I hope by being recognized today it will give them reinforcement and positive feedback to go back and urge the organization to move further toward our destination."

"When you look at where we are today versus a few years ago, you come back feeling very content," Al-Falih said. "The company is becoming a best-in-class steward of the environment."

The annual awards are organized by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and are an opportunity for the company's numerous departments to compete and showcase their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Organizations are judged according to their efforts in maintaining environmental compliance, enhancing environmental performance, raising awareness and pursuing environmental initiatives.



■ Khalid A. Al-Falih noted that the company has made fast progress in the past few years toward becoming a best-in-class steward of the environment.

"When you look at where we are today versus a few years ago, you come back feeling very content. The company is becoming a best-in-class steward of the environment."
— Khalid A. Al-Falih

Before the awards ceremony, representatives from an elite selection of organizations gave presentations about environmental initiatives that were considered for the President's Awards. In addition to the four winners, these included: Ju'aymah NGL Fractionation Department; 'Uthmaniyah Gas Plant; EPD Optimization Study for Jazan IGCC Power Plant Cooling Water Discharge; and EPD Technology to Treat MTBE Contaminated Groundwater.

Although awards were presented to just four organizations, EPD manager Hesham Al-Musaiid said that the entire company has made incredible strides toward

putting environmental stewardship at the forefront of all company operations.

"We have made good progress in implementing the corporate environmental strategies, and as a result, we have realized substantial gains on all environmental fronts, including protecting the air that we breathe and conserving our precious groundwater resources," Al-Musaiid said. "The hard work and dedication of all company organizations will ultimately benefit us, our families and our community at large."

During the event, Humoud Al-Utaibi, supervisor of Environmental Engineering, presented some highlights of what has been a historic year for the company in terms of its environmental protection efforts.

Among the facts he shared were the following:

- The company has implemented zero discharge technology at 400 well sites, a 55 percent increase compared to 2013.
- Implementation of zero discharge technology is responsible for the recovery of 5 billion scf of gas, in addition to 200,000 barrels of crude oil.
- Thanks to ongoing flare reduction initiatives, the overall amount of flaring for the company remained under 1 percent of total raw gas production for the second consecutive year.

Congratulating the winners of this year's President's Awards, Al-Falih extended his appreciation for the presenters of other departments who have made significant improvements in the company's environmental policies and performance.

Saying that the initiatives highlighted at the awards ceremony represent just a sampling of what is going on at the company, Al-Falih said, "I would like to acknowledge all the great work being done day in and day out in keeping our environmental stewardship programs going forward."

Advances in technology have played a significant part in reducing the company's environmental footprint, Al-Falih said, highlighting the implementation of zero discharge technology at well site operations, as well as the reduction of flaring below 1 percent of the total gas produced.

The use of environmentally friendly technologies, as well as the deliberate use of company resources to establish the Kingdom's first wildlife sanctuary in Shaybah and the Mangrove Eco-Park in Ras Tanura and to establish a 10-year-long collaboration with KAUST to conduct marine studies covering the entire Saudi waters of the Red Sea, were highlighted. These and other initiatives are evidence that Saudi Aramco can be a good corporate citizen in regards to the environment.

Even with these positive trends, Al-Falih noted, the company still has much work to do to reach its ambitious environmental objectives.

"Our ultimate destination, as I have said before, is to have zero harm and zero discharge to the environment," Al-Falih said. "And as I mentioned, if you extrapolate the trajectory we are on, we will get there. But it's going to take greater effort, and the closer we get to our ultimate destination, the more difficult our task becomes."

Ultimately, Saudi Aramco's people will be crucial to the company's success in improving environment protection, both as individuals and collectively as a company, Al-Falih said. "The solution is leadership. It's technology, it's people, it's investments, it's all of us working together, the support organizations and the research organizations, taking ownership to ensure that we get there."

"The presence of Prince Saud reflects his continuous support of knowledge dissemination initiatives and encouragement of scientific research efforts."
— Khalid A. Al-Falih



■ HRH Prince Saud Bin Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, center, appreciates one of the displays pointed out by HE Dr. Mohammed Al-Suwayel at the inauguration of the 2014 Science and Technology Week organized by King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in coordination with Saudi Aramco. Khalid A. Al-Falih and Abdulrahman F. Al-Wuhaib, left, joined the Prince on the tour.

Emir launches 2014 Science and Technology Week

NAGY AWAD

AL-KHOBAR — HRH Prince Saud Bin Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, Emir of the Eastern Province, inaugurated the 2014 Science and Technology Week organized by King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in collaboration with Saudi Aramco at Seef Hall on the al-Khobar Corniche on April 27.

His Royal Highness was accompanied by HE Dr. Mohammed Al-Suwayel, president of KACST; Khalid A. Al-Falih, Saudi Aramco's president and CEO; HE Dr. Abdullah Al-Rabeesh, president of the University of Dammam; Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Mudaires, director of education in the Eastern Province; and several other officials.

Also attending were Abdulrahman F. Al-Wuhaib, senior vice president of Downstream; Khaled A. Al Buraik, vice president of Petroleum Engineering and Development; Nasser A. Al-Nafisee, acting executive director of Corporate Affairs; Khalid K. Al-Mulhim, general manager of Government Affairs; and Fuad F. Al-Therman, director of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture.

After cutting the ribbon to open the event, Prince Saud toured the exhibition, starting with a visit to KACST's pavilion. He then visited Saudi Aramco's pavilion, where he listened to a summary from Mo-

ammed Al-Askar of the EXPEC Advanced Research Center about exploration innovations developed by the company. Nasher Ben Hasan gave a presentation on the submarine Saudi Aramco plans to use in deep water to explore for crude oil and nonassociated gas in sub-sea soil. Mohammad Al-Sayari of the Pipelines and Communications Projects Department gave a demonstration of a robot invented to detect corrosion in pipelines.

Prince Saud also visited Fablab Dhahran, a center jointly developed by the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) on the KFUPM campus, featuring the latest digital manufacturing technology and equipment. He visited the rest of the pavilions where he was briefed on King Abdullah's initiatives for Ara-



■ After cutting the ribbon to open the event, HRH Prince Saud Bin Nayef Bin Abdulaziz toured various booths at the event in Seef Hall, including the Saudi Aramco Pavilion and the company's Fablab site in Dhahran.

"Cooperation with Saudi Aramco is close, and events are designed to bridge the gap between science and technology with the community through the dissemination of knowledge."

— Dr. Mohammed Al-Suwayel

bic Content and Solar Water Desalination. He viewed models of the satellites produced and launched by KACST and methods of oil exploration and extraction, and other research projects and scientific services.

Al-Suwayel expressed appreciation to the Prince for launching the week's activities, praising the at-

tention he devotes to science and technology, saying that it reflects the Kingdom's belief in the role of science and technology in achieving its development goals.

He also expressed his pleasure that two of the Kingdom's leading institutions, KACST and Saudi Aramco, are jointly organizing the exhibition to reach out to the community, simplify scientific concepts and terms for the public and increase awareness of science and technology. He pointed out that KACST and Saudi Aramco share a special relationship of co-operation in many areas, and that KACST is keen to hold the event in other regions of the Kingdom.

Al-Falih also expressed his appreciation to the Prince for attending and launching the event as

part of his ongoing support for the promotion of science and technology. He noted that the prince is a supporter of the corporate and academic research efforts. Al-Falih also commended the efforts of Dr. Al-Suwayel and the KACST Board members in launching the initiative.

"Cooperation between us and KACST is wide-ranging and continuous," Al-Falih said. "KACST partnered with us in the development of the Global Knowledge Society Forum, which was recently organized by Saudi Aramco in the Eastern Province. Today we celebrate together a new science and knowledge event in the Kingdom, science and technology being the new sources of wealth in the 21st century. We are working together to achieve the vision of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to transform the Saudi society into a knowledge society over the next

few years.

"The next phase, during which the Kingdom will concentrate on becoming a producer rather than a consumer of knowledge, will push forward our country's economy and prosperity," Al-Falih added. "This is the reason for Saudi Aramco's collaboration with KACST in the organization of Science and Technology Week: to introduce the younger generations to the prospects of science and technology. This reflects the company's strategy to support knowledge through research and development, develop human capital, disseminate knowledge, and promote information infrastructure and entrepreneurship," he said.

The week's activities included several lectures by KACST's researchers. Throughout the week, KACST sought to immerse visitors in an atmosphere of knowledge, and increase awareness of the principles of science and technology.

Forging a future together in education

Prince Khalid launches knowledge incubator

NAGY AWAD

DHAHRAN — HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Education, emphasized the strength of the partnership between the Ministry of Education and Saudi Aramco to promote science and knowledge in the Kingdom during a recent visit to company headquarters in Dhahran, where he launched the iDiscover Knowledge Incubator.

Accompanied by Khalid A. Al-Falih, president and CEO of Saudi Aramco, and other members of corporate and senior management, the Prince said Saudi Aramco is an example of what institutions and companies should be. He also commended Saudi Aramco's role in an ongoing renaissance in the Kingdom.

Saudi Aramco not only provides a place for Saudis to innovate but also offers Saudis an opportunity to move into leadership roles in the near future, the Prince said.

During his visit to the company, the Prince launched the iDiscover Knowledge Incubator, one of Saudi Aramco's educational initiatives in partnership with the Ministry of Education, in Tabuk and Al-Bahah, and instructed the directors of education in these two areas to continue efforts to make the school environment interesting and attrac-



Photo: Abdulaziz Al-Moiweed/MPD

■ HRH Prince Khalid Al-Faisal Bin Abdulaziz, second from left, looks on as Fuad F. Al-Therman, left, shares the vision and mission of the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture. Listening on is Khalid A. Al-Falih and other members of corporate management.

tive to students.

Inauguration of the knowledge incubator program was attended by a number of the Ministry of Education and Saudi Aramco officials, including Dr. Hamad Al Shaykh, Deputy Minister of Education for Boys' Education; Dr. Haya Al-Awwad, Deputy Minister of Education for Girls' Education; Dr. Mohamed Al-Luhaidan, Director General of Education in Tabuk Province; and Said Mukhayish, Director General of Education in Al-Bahah Province.

A platform for scientific excellence

The iDiscover knowledge incubator program is one of the initiatives of Saudi Aramco's King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture and represents a scientific excellence platform for the training of teachers and students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through a sustained program offering intensive and creative activities in an innovative form.

The goal of the program is to train 5,000 teachers and 5,000 students per year, with a rate of 50 enrichment hours per participant. This knowledge incubator will be jointly organized by Saudi Aramco, as represented by the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture, and the Ministry of Education, as represented by the Directorates of Education in Tabuk and Al-Bahah Provinces.

The incubator will start its activities in the next academic year in the science and mathematics curricula,

training teachers in the latest teaching methods and developing them in the areas of student training skills and the art of talent identification. In addition, the incubator will help students discover their own talents and inclinations, encourage them to compete in scientific fields, prepare them for specialization in the fields of science and hone their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Meanwhile, the initiative will include developing the students' social networking skills.

IT conducts four-day oil and gas benchmarking workshop

DHAHRAN — Information Technology (IT) recently hosted a four-day workshop attended by 18 delegates from 10 of the world's leading international oil companies.

The Oil and Gas IT Benchmarking Group (OGBG), which includes representatives from Saudi Aramco, BP, Chevron, ENI, ExxonMobil, Petrobras, Repsol, Shell, Statoil and Total, was created to benchmark both qualitative and quantitative information to enable each company to maximize its delivery of IT services. The information and insights gained from the benchmarks will positively improve internal IT processes and capabilities.

There was no exchange of cost or sensitive data at the meeting.

Abdulaziz Al-AbdulKarim, IT executive director, welcomed the delegates and shared his vision of the OGBG Future Model of Collaboration with more focus on a one-to-one direct IT experience exchange that supports IT operations in the oil industry.

The workshop featured five main agenda items to boost the continuity of OGBG success, including:

■ **Best Practices Exchange:** Saudi Aramco started the session with a presen-

tation of its Accelerated Transformation Program. Other companies shared presentations on topics such as an IT vendor management process, developing the IT profession, IT transformation and more.

■ **Full Spending Benchmark:** The second topic addressed the efficiency of IT operations spending from various perspectives.

■ **SAP Benchmark:** The delegates discussed the progress of the SAP Benchmark and agreed on key areas that should be addressed in the report to chief information officers (CIOs). The benchmark encompasses a variety of fields related to SAP systems, including SAP systems evolution, maintenance, business process coverage and more.

■ **Improving OGBG Activities:** The group brainstormed on how to improve group activities, and more enhancements will be undertaken considering AbdulKarim's vision and other group CIOs.

■ **What's Next:** The last major topic was to agree on a proposal for the next OGBG CIOs meeting, which will be held Oct. 26 and 27 in Houston.

As part of the planned program, IT ar-



■ Participants from all around the world pose for a photo during the recent IT Oil and Gas Benchmarking workshop held in Dhahran.

ranged a visit to Manifa, a flagship of Saudi Aramco and one of its newest oil producing facilities.

IT will continue to work with OGBG companies and expand the relationship beyond the benchmarks for more of an immediate information exchange to improve IT operations and security.

More one-on-one meetings will be scheduled in the near future to help create more open and focused knowledge sharing. Other actions included a two-day meeting between Al-AbdulKarim and the CIO from Total, as well as developing an agenda for one-on-one meetings with the BP chief information security officer and his team.

Company plays key role at AAPG convention

JUDI OTTMAN

HOUSTON — The 2014 American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) annual convention held recently in Houston focused on the ever-increasing importance for geoscientists to develop game-changing breakthroughs — such as those that launched a new era of unconventional — for energy sustainability.

Strong company presence

Saudi Aramco and Aramco Services Co. (ASC) continued their significant presence at the annual event, which this year drew more than 9,000 delegates from around the world — a new record.

Company representatives served in leading roles to develop the AAPG program, oversee an international competition for students and give a number of technical presentations. Staff members were also present to meet with those interested in career opportunities with Saudi Aramco.

AAPG Distinguished Service Award

As a conference highlight, Hussain M. Al-Otaibi, manager of the Saudi Aramco Exploration Resource Assessment Department, received a 2014 AAPG Distinguished Service Award during the opening session for his



■ Munther Alshakhs, who was one of several Saudi Aramco geoscientists giving presentations during the AAPG convention, is pictured here at the company exhibit booth giving a talk, titled "Saudi Aramco's Unconventional Journey So Far."

long-term service to the organization.

He was one of nine recipients receiving the award this year.

"This is quite an honor," he said. "I have truly enjoyed volunteering my time over the years to support AAPG's mission to advance excellence in the field of geology." He added that he particularly liked working on initiatives that inspired a sense of excitement within the geoscience community, especially among students. "We are seeing a big surge of interest in this dynamic field," he said. "The possibilities seem endless." (See sidebar, "Al-Otaibi receives special recognition")

Further leadership involvement

Said Al-Hajri, acting manager of Saudi Aramco's Exploration Technical Services Department and current president of the AAPG Middle East Region, served as a judge for the global finals of the AAPG annual Imperial Barrel Award contest. The competition brought geoscience graduate students from around the world together to test their skill in analyzing multidisciplinary petroleum data packages and to present their interpretations to industry experts.

Gretchen Gillis, geological specialist in ASC Upstream, chaired the AAPG Technical Program. She supervised a team of 25 geoscientists to solicit and review a record number of 1,450 abstracts received.

"The annual convention and exhibition is the most important AAPG event each year," she said, "so I was pleased to have had the strong support of ASC management and my geoscientist colleagues in developing this year's technical program."

Also of note, Dr. Don Lowe, Max Steineke Professor at Stanford University, received the Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award for his outstanding work in the study of sedimentary geology. The professorship namesake, Max Steineke, was a first generation Saudi Aramco pioneer and the former chief geologist for the company. He was also a graduate of Stanford University.

Technical presentations

Saudi Aramco geoscientists delivered three oral presentations and two poster presentations, as well as four presentations in the company's exhibit booth.

Abid Bhullar of the Exploration Resource Assessment Department and another coauthor presented "Coupling Petrophysics and Petroleum Systems Modeling: A Shale Oil Application in the Rub' al-Khali Basin in Saudi Arabia." Dave Cantrell of EXPEC ARC presented, "Reactive Transport Modeling of Reflux Dolomitization on an Upper Jurassic Homoclinic Carbonate Ramp," which he coauthored with Peng Lu, also with EXPEC ARC.

Robert Lindsay of the Exploration Technical Services Department presented oral and in-booth presentations on "Rediscovering the Arab-D Reservoir," and Munther Alshakhs of the Unconventional Resource Exploration Department gave an in-booth presentation on "Saudi Aramco's Unconventional Journey So Far."

A poster presentation authored by Reservoir Characterization Department staff members Fawwaz Al-Khaldi and Aus Al-Tawil, manager, and another coauthor was on display, titled "Miocene Sequence Stratigraphy of the Dam and Hadruk Formations, Eastern Saudi Arabia."

Additionally, Mohammed Al-Masrahy, a Ph.D. student in the Advanced Degree Program, displayed a poster on "Approaches to Modeling Stratigraphic Heterogeneity in Mixed Fluvial and Eolian Hydrocarbon Reservoirs."

Showcasing career opportunities

Saudi Aramco and ASC representatives met with a steady stream of geoscientists and others visiting the exhibit booth to learn more about the company's upstream activities and career opportunities. Recruiters conducted on-site interviews with the most promising job candidates.

Saudi Aramco served as a Diamond Level sponsor of this year's event.



■ Hussain Al-Otaibi receives a plaque in honor of his many achievements and pioneering efforts with AAPG.

Al-Otaibi receives Distinguished Service Award from AAPG

HOUSTON — Hussain M. Al-Otaibi, manager of the Saudi Aramco Exploration Resource Assessment Department, received the AAPG Distinguished Service award for his long-term service to the organization. He accepted the award during the opening session of the 2014 AAPG Annual Convention and Exhibition in Houston.

Al-Otaibi has played a key role in promoting geoscience knowledge throughout his 29-year career history. He has been an active member of AAPG since 1985 and became the first elected president of the AAPG Middle East Region, serving from 2009-2011.

Al-Otaibi's passion to promote the geosciences began early on when, in 1983, he created the Geology Club at King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals while earning his degree. He didn't stop there, and in 1987, he initiated the idea of establishing a geosciences society, the first in the Middle East Region. Later on, he helped form the Dhahran Geoscience Society within Saudi Aramco, becoming its president in 1989.

Al-Otaibi has been extremely active promoting AAPG and serving its members within the Middle East Region and in other parts of the world. He has been enrolled in the Region Council for six years.

As a leader with AAPG, Al-Otaibi worked tirelessly to advance the organization's technical and educational programs, and he has been particularly passionate about student participation. As such, he led the effort to involve geoscience graduate students from the Middle East in the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award competition. He also helped establish seven AAPG student chapters in the region.



■ Saudi Aramco hosted an exhibit booth during the AAPG convention.



■ Saudi Aramco and ASC representatives gather for a group photo at the Saudi Aramco exhibit booth during the AAPG convention.

"I must stress the importance of traffic safety and the need to raise awareness and take all necessary measures to prevent the tragic accidents that pose a danger to the Kingdom's youth."

— Khalid A. Al-Falih



'UDHAILIYAH EMSR

No place for complacency in safety

NAGY AWAD

'UDHAILIYAH — During the 'Udhailiyah Executive Management Safety Review (EMSR) on May 5, Saudi Aramco's president and CEO Khalid A. Al-Falih stressed the importance of avoiding complacency when applying the highest safety standards in Saudi Aramco facilities.

Al-Falih said the company's operations are a true testament to the ability of Saudi Aramco employees to complete all projects with maximum efficiency and safety, both during project construction and operation.

The CEO and members of management toured the Haradh Gas Plant (HGP), the gas-oil separation plant (GOSP) and the Saudi Aramco 'Udhailiyah community.

At the start of the EMSR, Muhammad Al-Mutairi, an operations engineer, gave a presentation on the importance of safety and adherence to its rules, citing as an example an accident that caused the death of his colleague. That accident, he said, changed his perception of defensive driving and the need to respect traffic rules and speed limits.

Promising statistics and figures

Ahmad Al-Sa'adi, vice president of Gas Operations, spoke about last year's safety statistics in Haradh, which witnessed a tangible improvement in 2013 compared with 2012. There were no fires within work areas, he said, with only one small fire incident occurring in the community. Contractor accidents also decreased to 82 incidents in 2013 compared to 149 in 2012, a decrease attributed to many safety workshops conducted by Saudi Aramco.

Al-Sa'adi added that 2013 also witnessed many safety accomplishments. These include:

- A 45 percent increase in employees' use of public transportation.

- The installation of automatic vehicle locators (AVLs) in 30 percent of Saudi Aramco vehicles (with plans to equip the rest of the company's cars with AVLs by 2015).



Photo: Rayan Al Ghamdi/MPD

■ Operation engineer Fahd Al-Mandeel, left, gives a presentation to Abdullah I. Al-Saadon, Mohammed Y. Al-Qahtani and other members of senior management at the May 5 'Udhailiyah Executive Management Safety Review.

■ Gas Operations winning the 2013 Global Risk Award.

Haradh Projects also won several environmental awards, including the 2013 Emirates Energy Award. In addition, the company is collaborating with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) to develop water recycling technology and with the King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) to develop an energy-saving program.

Gas and oil operations also launched 23 campaigns targeting the local community, with more than 700,000 people participating, Al-Sa'adi added. He also said the Haradh-Riyadh Road Development Project is 90 percent complete and that work is scheduled to be completed in July.

Meanwhile, the development of the Haradh-Hawiyah Road is also under way and is scheduled to be completed in June 2017.

Road safety

Abdullah Al-Baroot, leader of the Sheddum Gas Plant (SGP) Compliance Team, presented the outcomes of studies conducted by the team on traffic safety in the area. Company-owned ve-

hicles transport 4,900 Saudi Aramco employees daily, he said. To improve safety on the roads, AVLs have been installed in almost one-third of Saudi Aramco's vehicles, drivers have received training on the principles of defensive driving, and the company has focused on road development.

Al-Baroot said a work model was developed based on the current situation, the target situation and the gap between the two. Current situation studies indicated that 60 percent of traffic accident victims are under the age of 25, the majority of whom travel long distances to return to their home areas on weekends.

The team considered the factors in the accidents, which are primarily speed, extreme fatigue and texting while driving. The next step involved interviewing drivers and conducting a survey and a study of their driving habits to compare it with related international studies and programs.

Al-Baroot summarized the findings of his team on a group of internal procedures, namely expansion of the use of speed-limiting devices and AVLs, holding workshops to improve driver be-

havior and instituting an accident-free record requirement for all new applicants for company jobs.

Recommendations also included a review of work conditions, avoiding driving and long trips when exhausted, and organizing forums on road safety awareness and defensive driving for employees' family members.

Haradh success stories

During his tour of HGP, Al-Falih listened to an explanation given by Khalid Al-Suwailam, an HGP operations engineer, on a new system for extracting sulfur from gas, thereby saving more than 1.2 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of gas. Then, Fahd Al-Mandeel, another operation engineer, gave a presentation on a new invention to protect gas pipes.

Al-Falih also heard a success story from operation engineer Abdullah Rakadeen that took place at HGP, with the plant managing to raise its production to 1.95 billion scfd of gas. Muhammad Al-Utaibi then presented and tested a device for reading gas flows inside pipes.

The executives visited the main control unit at HGP, where Hani Al-Shaykh and Mubarak Al-

Umani gave a presentation on Gas Operations' journey of excellence from 1933 to present day.

Al-Falih then visited the Excellence Center inside HGP, where he was briefed by Khalid Al-Megalgel on the mission of the Gas Operations Academy, which is to provide training to all Saudi Aramco gas plant personnel and achieve the highest degree of excellence.

The visitors then went to the community where they toured temporary houses erected to accommodate the continuous increase of HGP personnel and the new projects planned inside HGP. Other tours included the GOSP-3, Haradh-2 and the northern gas plant.

No complacency in safety

After the tours, Al-Falih thanked the organizers and Haradh personnel for achieving high safety levels but stressed that no complacency should be shown as safety standards should be strictly applied to guarantee the well-being of employees and their families.

"I must stress, once again, the importance of traffic safety and the need to raise awareness and take all necessary measures to prevent the tragic accidents that increasingly pose a danger to the Kingdom's youth," Al-Falih said.

The CEO expressed his pride in what he saw at HGP, and in the employees' commitment, efficiency and high professionalism, not only in production but also in applying safety standards.

"I always underscore the importance of knowledge transfer between generations of company employees," he added. "The Academy of Excellence in Gas Operation achieves a smooth but certain transfer of knowledge between all generations, thereby reflecting the company's commitment to proceed, with confident steps, with the implementation of its Accelerated Transformation Program."



■ Company participants in the SPE Saudi Arabia Section 2014 Annual Technical Symposium and Exhibition, including members of corporate and senior management, pose for a photo.

Sustainability, technology focus of SPE symposium

KHALID ORAIFEJ

AL-KHOBAR — More than 2,000 engineers and earth scientists gathered for the Society of Petroleum Engineer's (SPE) Saudi Arabia Section 2014 Annual Technical Symposium and Exhibition in al-Khobar from April 21-24.

The event, sponsored by Saudi Aramco and other oil and gas companies in the region, was opened by Amin H. Nasser, senior vice president of Upstream, and saw more than 80 technical papers presented addressing the latest technology developments.

Khaled A. Al Buraik, vice president of Petroleum Engineering and Development and chairman of the Board of Directors of SPE Saudi Arabia Section, highlighted the impetus behind the symposium to provide a platform for sharing experience and knowledge transfer between industry professionals. He also said that the event was designed to promote the latest research and technology developments to address the industry's future challenges.

In his welcome note, symposium chairman Dr. Ahmed Alhuthali highlighted the leading role the symposium plays in promoting innovation and technology development in the region. He also praised the outstanding quality of the technical papers and presentations given in the symposium year after year.

This year's theme, "Unattainable, Unsustainable, Unconventional Made Possible," accentuates the oil and gas industry's efforts to energize the globe and to deliver a sustainable future. The recent advances in various aspects of oil and gas industry, including digital energy, unconventional resources ex-



Photos: Mohammed Al-Sheikh/MPD

■ Ali Dogru speaks during a panel session at the SPE Saudi Arabia Section 2014 Annual Technical Symposium and Exhibition in al-Khobar. At right, Samer AlAshgar moderates the session.

ploitation, drilling practices and ultimate oil recovery processes, show that the industry is reliable and can evolve to meet global demand.

Saudi Aramco professionals from across various upstream specialties were well represented at the symposium as they showcased Saudi Aramco's leading role in innovation and technology development in the industry. Furthermore, Al Buraik added, "The oil and gas industry is uniquely positioned to capitalize on the strength of its human capital and financial resources to address future upstream challenges for a brighter tomorrow."

Knowledge sharing and technology development

Four distinguished keynote speakers addressed delegates at the event highlighting issues of strategic importance to the industry. Among the keynote speakers were Abdulrahman F. Al-Wuhaib, senior vice president of Downstream at Saudi Aramco; Jeff Spath,

SPE president; Khalid Nouh, president of Middle East and Asia Pacific Region at Baker Hughes; and Ashok Bellani, executive vice president of Technology at Schlumberger.

Technical sessions and associated exhibition

Saudi Aramco's engineers played a major role in the symposium's 20 technical sessions. The event also involved a very vibrant executive panel discussion, which engaged leaders from the oil and gas industries in a lively discussion to address one of the most resonating questions posed to our professionals today, which is how to unlock the full potential of upstream technologies.

The panel was moderated by Samer AlAshgar, manager of the EXPEC Advanced Research Center at Saudi Aramco, and the panelists were Tim Probert, president of Strategy and Corporate Development; Nicholas Gee, founder of Ingenium Energy Ltd.; Judson Jacobs, director of IHS Cambridge

Energy Research Associates; Dr. Ali Dogru, Saudi Aramco Fellow; and upstream consultant Pieter Kaptejin.

The symposium's associated exhibition showcased the latest in technology developments and proved popular with attendees.

The symposium also incorporated two pre-event courses organized to address topics related to unconventional reservoirs and Intelligent Field infrastructure. The pre-event activities involved two workshops to cultivate the interaction among professionals and address the most pressing issues in the oil and gas industry to achieve ultimate recovery in the Middle East, through emerging technology and innovative practices.

One of the distinguishing aspects of the symposium technical program was the luncheon keynote speeches delivered by esteemed industry leaders on topics related to safety in exploration and production activities and new technologies to make unconventional conventional.



■ Some of the more than 400 participants in the annual Shaybah Cleanup celebrate another successful effort in the region.

Shaybah Producing Department walks the 'green' walk

ZAKI O. SAFAR

SHAYBAH — The Shaybah Producing Department (SyPD), twice a recipient of the President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, once again exhibited its commitment to environmental protection recently through its annual Clean Up Campaign.

The event brought together more than 400 management and staff members from SyPD, support organizations and contractors to embark on a desert-wide mission to pick up waste, leftover construction materials and debris.

bris.

While the flurry of new projects presently gaining ground in Shaybah has led to heavier traffic in the surrounding area, participants rose to the challenge and stepped up efforts to clean up facilities, roads, sand dunes and salt flats.

Through active, hands-on engagement in the battle against negligent waste disposal, the department strives to ingrain in the minds of employees an ever deeper commitment to environmental sustainability.

"In order for us to accomplish that," said Anwar Al-Hejazi, manager of SyPD, "we must not only talk the green talk, but also walk the green walk."

The cleaning campaign saw crews collect nearly 200 plastic bags of garbage.

Meanwhile, SyPD continues its quest to create a wildlife sanctuary in the midst of the barren landscape. The reserve will protect the oryx, gazelle and other endangered desert species and will be inaugurated in 2015.

Mentorship stressed at SAMDS dinner

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Aramco Services Co. recently hosted a dinner in honor of participants in this year's Saudi Aramco Management Development Seminar (SAMDS) in the historic National Portrait Gallery, in Washington, D.C.

SAMDS participants completed a three-week course in Washington and New York, hearing first-hand from experts and thought leaders on a comprehensive set of global issues including energy technology, resource management and corporate responsibility, and exploring varying viewpoints and new ideas.

Guests at the dinner included some of the SAMDS speakers as well as members of ASC management.

The evening provided an opportunity to focus on the value of mentorship in developing the next generation of leaders, which is deeply ingrained tradition in Saudi Aramco's corporate culture.

"All of us have risen through the ranks in part because of the investment of others, particularly because of the mentors who showed us through their own actions how good leaders should lead and gave us their time and guidance even if we did not ask for it," said ASC president Nabeel Amudi, who spoke on the role of leadership in achieving excellence.

He recognized some of the SAMDS participants gathered there who had been long-time colleagues and mentors. "The best way to thank you is for all of us to turn around and help the next generation of leaders and



■ SAMDS 2014 participants are some of the company's most promising leaders who are challenged with advancing the company's Strategic Intent during a time of growth and diversification.

young professionals,'" he said.

Amudi addressed the vital challenge of leadership to the continued success of the company in an age of both complexity and increased expectations. Amudi cited Saudi Aramco president and CEO Khalid A. Al-Falih when he told an audience at KAUST earlier this year, "Saudi Aramco is developing into a company that will not only change with the global energy landscape, but lead that

evolution. (We are) working aggressively to become the innovation company of the future (and) a world-leading creator of energy solutions."

Much remains to be done, Amudi said, in articulating and implementing this compelling vision of a new Saudi Aramco, creating a sense of excitement and building confidence that the company can meet the challenges ahead. "We will have to fully draw upon

all that we have learned in our careers, adding value whenever and wherever possible, and managing results for both the short and long term. It's a challenge, but it's a challenge we want to have," he said.

The Great Hall of the National Portrait Gallery provided a dramatic and appropriate setting. The museum is housed in the original U.S. Patent Office Building, one of the oldest federal buildings in

Washington, D.C. The Portrait Gallery also tells the history of America through individuals who have shaped its culture.

Amudi concluded by thanking Management Development for allowing ASC to once again welcome some of the company's most promising leaders and expressing his appreciation to the outstanding speakers and thought leaders who were also in attendance.

R&DC joins with M&PDD to enhance division head leadership skills

DHAHRAN — Research and Development is at the heart of Saudi Aramco's vision of becoming a leading integrated energy and chemicals company by 2020. Achieving this aggressive ambition will hinge, not only on world-class innovation and scientific know-how, but also on great leadership.

Recognizing this, the Research and Development Center (R&DC) recently partnered with the Management and Professional Development Department (M&PDD) to devise a comprehensive development program for its division heads. Ensuring that the department has all the necessary elements in place to create a premier center of global research, the program was designed to help division heads find solutions to everyday management challenges and help them align their research areas with the ATP and 2020 strategic intent.

"There is a big call on R&D for the future of the company, and indeed the Kingdom," said Ashraf Al-Ghazzawi, manager of the R&DC.

"So it was crucial that we sat down and ensured that we are heading in the right direction and that our teams are aligned with the aims of the company — and that all begins with good communication and teamwork."

The M&PDD-led program allowed division heads to openly discuss ideas and challenges and seek solutions from each other and R&DC management.

A tailored program comprised of spe-



Photo: Ahmad El Itani/MPD

■ Participants in the Division Head Development Program pose for a photo with members of management and M&PDD

cifically designed individual coaching sessions and team interventions were delivered to the division heads to help improve their leadership capabilities and create a greater level of alignment and team spirit among them and within their teams.

For Huda M. Al-Ghosen, executive director of Human Resources, "This type of program is exactly what we need in order to assure that our offerings match the needs of the organization in terms of flexibility, customization and just-in-time delivery."

For the chief technologist of Oil Upgrading Division Ali Al-Somali, the program has helped communication between the various research groups. "Teamwork is an important aspect of what we do; acknowledging shortcomings and opening

up to others was a paramount to make this program a success," said Al-Somali, from the R&DC. "The program has helped us work in a more synergistic way with other divisions, continuously have candid feedback, and hence align our research efforts. As a company we are going forward and looking at ways of improving our operating methods — this is a great example of that."

The success of the five-month long program is due to a number of factors, according to Peter Tomich, an M&PDD specialist. But there's no doubt what was at the top of his list.

"The division heads were open and very engaged in the process. They really understand the critical role their organization will play in the future of the company and they are willing to do what it takes to make sure

"This program was among the best I have seen in my 35 years ... for its practicality, relevance and impact."

— Charles T. Kresge

they have the right skill set and leadership qualities to make it happen." He added: "The individual coaching plans were also very important. Our coaches worked hard to really understand what the needs of each individual were in the context of the broader business imperatives. And they also followed up to track the changes in their approach to leadership."

For Charles Kresge, Saudi Aramco chief technology officer, the Division Head Development Program has been an eye opener. Kresge was given a chance to see up close the commitment, capabilities and willingness to learn of the division heads.

"This program was among the best I have seen in my 35 years ... for its practicality, relevance and impact," he said. "It was simple, focused on real issues, direct and transparent. For these reasons, the team loved it and grew from it. We now approach the aspiration behind ATP with a much greater sense of understanding, collaboration, mutual trust and leadership strength that makes me confident that together we will achieve it."



■ With "One Degree" as the theme of Materials Supply's New Employee Day event, management joined with the new employees to pose for a photo.

Materials Supply welcomes new employees

TAIBAH AL-MASHOUQ
DHAHRAN — First impressions are milestones, especially in regard to on-boarding new employees.

Materials Supply (MS) believes that first impressions can have significant implications for employee productivity, engagement and retention. Therefore, MS conducted a "New Employee Day" event on April 10.

This year, the event centered on the theme of "One Degree" with the notion that one extra step can make all the difference. Raising the temperature of water by one extra degree can change the water's characteristic from being simply very hot to a condition that generates enough force to power a machine. This will consistently push us to make the extra effort in every task we undertake and will always remind us that seemingly small things can make tremendous differences.

Nabeel A. Al-Mansour, executive director of Materials Supply, encouraged and welcomed new employees in his opening remarks. "I am very happy to be here today to have this opportunity to see our new employees gathered together so we can all get to know each other. Like you, I am new to Materials Supply," he said. "We are embarking on a journey together."

"We are currently experiencing unparalleled levels of workload, which will challenge and stretch us. So I say this to you: You are joining us at a great time, an exciting time, a time of growth and a time



■ New employees try their hand at Jenga, an activity designed to mirror the activities used to start a career, including patience, determination, risk management and teamwork.

of change. Welcome onboard, I wish you every success, and I hope you enjoy the journey."

Ibrahim Al-Mojel of the Ras Tanura Refinery Engineering Department, Reem Al-Ghanim of the Staffing Services Department and Hytham Al-Saati of Corporate Planning were the guest speakers. Al-Mojel spoke on "Saudi Aramco: A Platform for Change," emphasizing Saudi Aramco employees have the potential to have an impact and possess the needed resources to create opportunities for sustainable economic growth.

Al-Ghanim gave a talk titled "Your Career," which focused on important aspects of career development, including self-awareness, career alignment, networking, branding and performance.

Al-Saati's presentation, "Three Evils: Variation, Inflexibility, and Waste," sought to inspire the audience to seek opportunities in continuous improvement and adopt best practices.

In addition to the presentations, participants engaged in a Jenga activity. Jenga involves wooden pieces that are used to build a high tower using very simple, yet



■ Nabeel A. Al-Mansour told the new employees that, like them, he is new to the organization and that they are "embarking on a journey together."

risky, steps. It requires taking it one step at a time, controlling the nerves, keeping a steady hand, knowing which piece to pull in the right time and never giving up even if the tower falls.

The idea behind the exercise is that those simple requirements mirror those needed when starting a career, including patience, determination, risk management and teamwork.

Attendees, including management, gave positive feedback on the event and expressed their appreciation to the dedicated organizing team for conducting an event that was well-balanced — both motivational and informative — with a good mix of engaging, team-building activities.



■ Thirty-seven employees who were recognized for continuous service of 25 to 40 years pose with members of management during a ceremony held in Tanajib.

Safaniyah Area Producing recognizes employees for long service to the company

TANAJIB — Safaniyah Area Producing recently conducted a service award ceremony at Tanajib, with 37 employees being recognized for their continuous service ranging between 25 and 40 years.

During the ceremony, brief videos of the employees describing their careers and experience with Saudi Aramco were presented.

Northern Area Oil Operation (NAOO) vice president Nasir K. Al-Naimi and Safaniyah Area Producing manage-

ment congratulated each employee for their achievement and thanked them for their dedication and significant contribution to the company throughout their years of service.

Those recognized were Mumtaz Akhtar, Antonio Ramos Silvestre, Abdulrahman Al Mubadel, Ali Al Shaikh, Mahfood Al Awami, Mohammad Al Awisheer, Mansour Al Shabib, Bader Ahmed Al Bader, Mohammad Al Hoty, Khaild Al Suwayan, Abdul Shaik Quaiyum, Jaber

A. Odeh, Jaffer A. Shafi, Hassan Tahnoon, Abdulwahab Al Qattan, Zaid Al Harthi, Sultan Al Subaey, Atiyah Al Zaharani, Saleh Al Dossary, Husain Al Sadah, Hassan Mohammed, Salman Abdulmohsin, Talib Nasser, Hayder Ali, Malik Khalaf, Khalid Al Huwayil, Baqir Shaikh, Mohammad Hassan, Abdulaziz Al Shammari, Abdulaziz Al Shabrami, Ali Salam, Jasim Tubaili, Abdullah Al Jamea, Abdulsalam Yousif, Ahmed Ibrahim, Ibrahim Al Sulaiman and Awad Al Anzi.

CORONA VIRUS

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome- Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

MANY PEOPLE WONDER ABOUT CORONA VIRUS, **What is it?**



Corona is a large group of viruses, which can infect both humans and animals. However, the new strain of coronavirus, which causes MERS-CoV, is a novel virus to humans. Information about the disease, its signs, modes of transmission and even sources of infection are very limited. Ministry of Health, in cooperation with WHO and international experts, are working on finding out more about this virus.

IS THERE A TREATMENT FOR CORONA VIRUS?

There is no treatment now. Supportive medical procedure are provided such as Antipyretics and Vitamin C.

Un-known

IS THERE A VACCINE FOR CORONA VIRUS?

NO VACCINE
So far, there is no vaccine.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE PROTECTION MEASURES FOR CORONA VIRUS?

1 Wash your hands well and continually with water and soap, or other hand disinfectants, especially after coughing, sneezing, using toilets, before handling/preparing food, and after contact with patients or their personal tools.

2 Avoid contact with patients and their personal tools, and use facemasks as much as possible.

3 Avoid touching your eyes and/or nose as much as possible.

4 Use facemask in overcrowded places, especially during Umrah and Hajj.

5 Use a tissue when coughing or sneezing, then get rid of it in a waste basket. After that, wash your hands carefully. If there is no tissue, it is preferred to cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

6 Maintain good hygiene habits in general.

7 Wash vegetables and fruits thoroughly before eating them.

8 Maintain other healthy habits such as balanced diet, physical activity, as well as getting enough sleep; this will strengthen immunity.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CORONA VIRUS INFECTION?

Cough

Fever

Congestion in the nose and throat

Shortness of breath

In some cases
Diarrhea

In advanced cases, the patient can have very serious complications, which can lead to death, such as:

X-RAY

Severe pneumonia

HOW CORONA VIRUS DOES TRANSMIT BETWEEN PEOPLE?

It is believed that MERS-CoV transmits like other Corona viruses and Flu, which transmits through:

- 1 Direct contact with infected patients.
- 2 Droplets during the patient's coughing or sneezing.
- 3 Contact with patient's tools then touching the nose, mouth or eyes directly.
- 4 Possibly Transmitted by Camels.

No need to panic about

MERS

Medical Services offers a few tips to prevent it from spreading

DHAHRAN — The Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) is headline news.

Leader of the Medical Services task-force dedicated to MERS-CoV, Jaffar A. Al-Tawfiq, M.D., FACP, FCCP, consultant in Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases, chairman, Prevention and Control of Infection Committee, encourages Saudi Aramco employees to stay informed about MERS-CoV. Al-Tawfiq stressed the importance of individuals understanding how they can be proactive in protecting their health with straightforward good hygiene practices and sensible precautions.

There has been an increase in the number of confirmed cases of (MERS-CoV) infections. These continue to be reported predominantly in Jiddah and Riyadh, although on April 29, a single case was confirmed in Hafr Al-Batin in the Eastern Province.

In Jiddah, two Saudi Aramco eligible medical recipients have been confirmed positive: a Saudi Aramco retiree, who is currently hospitalized, and as previously reported, a Saudi Aramco employee who is now fully recovered.

Although the total number of MERS-CoV cases over the past two years remains relatively limited, there is high public awareness and concern. While we do not wish to create undue anxiety, the high level of awareness, combined with the practice of sensible infection-control precautions, is important to help limit the spread of the infection.

There have been no positive MERS-CoV cases treated in Saudi Aramco Medical Services facilities for nine months. Any patients suspected of MERS-CoV infection are tested and cared for in compliance with best-practice infection control protocols. Our infection control team continues to proactively monitor the situation and is closely engaged with the Ministry of Health on matters related to MERS-CoV.

Medical Services maintains a high level of vigilance and preparedness and is providing expertise to assist with the wider efforts to prevent and control any spread of MERS-CoV within the Kingdom.

No travel restrictions

The World Health Organization has not advised of the need for any special screening at border crossings or other points of entry with regard to novel coronavirus, nor does it currently advise any travel or trade restrictions.

Stay up-to-date

The Ministry of Health is providing frequent status updates and multimedia educational resources through their website, toll free phone line: 800-249-4444 and on Twitter @SAUDI MOH.

Information regarding MERS-CoV and precautionary measures is available on the Medical Services website.

Medical Services is committed to protecting the health and well-being of all Saudi Aramco employees and their dependents, and will continue to provide updates on the situation as warranted.

Questions, requests for educational material and concerns may be sent to *Health.Information@aramco.com*.

Do you have any inquiry . . ?

8002494444 www.moh.gov.sa/coronanew
/SaudiMOH /SaudiMOH /MOHPortal



iRead: Paving the way to a knowledge society

"At one magical instant in your early childhood, the page of a book — that string of confused, alien ciphers — shivered into meaning. Words spoken to you, gave up their secrets; at that moment, whole universes opened. You became, irrevocably, a reader."

— Alberto Manguel,
author of "A History of Reading"

It was Manguel who gave an inspirational talk about "The Joy of Reading" in a remarkable event that celebrated young readers during the closing events of iRead 2013, which was piloted in the Eastern Province and resonated strongly throughout the region. The family-oriented closing event engaged not only the participants — who were the shining stars of the ceremony — but also their parents, siblings, and friends.

Two main competitions constituted the iRead 2013: Reader of the Year, and Reader of Beauty.

Reader of the Year is a competition that strives to ignite the passion in Saudi youth toward reading by providing a life-changing experience. Participants submitted summaries of books that inspired them via the iRead website. From there, a selected group of participants, who were chosen through an intensive judging process, attended enrichment workshops designed to share creative ways of delivering summaries on stage, such as theatrical performance, poetry, Arabic calligraphy, music and more.

The Reader of Beauty is a photography competition that encourages talented photographers to submit their best images that relate to the theme of reading.

In 2014, the iRead competi-

tion is expanding to enrich Saudi youth Kingdomwide with a mission to create an ecosystem that motivates youth to read by putting the spotlight on distinguished readers. Passionate readers from throughout the Kingdom who are studying in intermediate, secondary schools and universities are competing to win an award in one of three categories: Book Summary (Reader of the Year), Photography (Reader of Beauty), and this year's new competition, Video and Animation.

In the reading category, participants prove their reading competencies by submitting a summary of a book that inspired them deeply as they compete with other eager readers for the title of Reader of the Year.

The submission phase in the iRead award website for the book summary category closed on April 19 with total submissions reaching 5,799. In preparation for the next phase, the book summaries will go through a rigorous filtration process to ensure that the best submissions move forward to the next stage. The submitted summaries covered a wide spectrum of genres, including fiction, nonfiction and self-development books, among others.

In the second and third cat-



■ Above, one of the participants is being interviewed by the iRead primary judges. Launched in 2013, the program has expanded to be offered to students of various ages Kingdomwide — an extension of the company's efforts to instill a love of reading and move Saudi Arabia toward a knowledge-based society. Below, a group of iRead nominees listen to a brief about the competition.

egories, the total number of submissions so far is 915. The registration and submission in these two categories will close Aug. 31.

The iRead Award closing events will take place during the 2014 iThra Knowledge Program in November.

The iRead competitions are part of a wide spectrum of projects and events provided by Saudi Aramco's King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture as part of its mission of moving Saudi society toward a knowledge-based society.

— Article by Shatha Quraishi



Materials Supply PDPs learn about Shaybah operations up close

MAJID ALKHULAIFY

SHAYBAH — Materials Supply recently organized a field trip to Shaybah with an open invitation to all Materials Supply Professional Development Program (PDP) employees. The goal was to provide knowledge-enhancing exposure to one of Saudi Aramco's major crude oil production areas.

The field trip began with a visit to the gas-oil separation plant (GOSP) 2. Musaab Al-Zahrani, an operator working in Shaybah, briefly explained the process of separating crude oil from sediments, solids, condensates and gasses to allow the crude oil to be pumped through the pipelines. He also spoke about the high standards of safety that are present at all four of the Shaybah GOSPs.

The trip continued with a visit to the upper tent, where the group was treated to the beautiful scenery of the sunset reflected on the soft red-golden sands of the desert. In the tent, the group watched a short movie on the history of Shaybah ranging from the early days of discovering the oil fields in the 1960s to the modern day developments of facilities and expansions of operations. Finally, an open-air barbecue dinner concluded the trip.

The enthusiastic Materials Supply PDP



■ Young Materials Supply employees in the company's Professional Development Program take time out from a busy schedule during their recent visit of Shaybah operations to pose for a photo on the red dunes of the Rub' al-Khali.

participants who joined the trip responded positively and expressed their appreciation to the dedicated organizing team in Shaybah.

"Our trip to Shaybah was very informative, refreshing, and full of fun," said Sarah AlDossary, a Materials Supply PDP. "The

whole experience was very eye-opening and educational. It helped us understand the core business of Saudi Aramco and the great efforts that are being made to improve it."

Nasser AlRushoud, another PDP who enjoyed the trip, said, "The sunset view from the upper tent was breathtaking, and every-

one enjoyed taking photos of the glamorous view."

The trip was both indulging and informative, accomplishing the goal of enhancing Materials Supply PDPs' first-hand knowledge about Saudi Aramco's operations and projects.

Saudi Aramco Expatriate Schools

2013-2014 Second Trimester Honor Roll

ABQAIQ SCHOOL

Honor With Distinction (GPA: 4.0)

Seventh Grade: Jahanzeb Hassan, Angela Hernandez, Nadine Leila Khouri, Stephen Peng and Vishrutha Reddy Tupili.

Eighth Grade: Vincent Batchelor, Valeria Espinosa Rondon and Manas Srinivasaiah.

Ninth Grade: Tahani Amania Ahmed, Carmella Mapong Bangkok, Dania Samer Basli, Maria Maltilde Buccimazza and Abdul Mohsin Mohammed.

High Honors

Seventh Grade: Yara Abu Laban, Marcella Rinai Bangkok, Tahira Chowdhury, Ella Cole, Johannah DeGuzman, Chima-zuru Claire Efobi, Sarim Muhammad, Ashafina Nengkoda, Michael Patrick O'Donnell, Maya Dalia Ramahi, Ammar Rizvi and Asad Syed.

Eighth Grade: Hasan Abbas Agha, Tala Aisheh, Jaxson Thomas Bick, Tanzee Dahlberg, Laial Ensan El Ayoubi, Joachim Etienne, Fabiola Gonzalez Rios, Gabriel Powell, Tomas Prodan, Salman A. Shah and Mahek Vijaywargiya.

Ninth Grade: Martha Edafiaga, Irtaza Hashmi, Sana Hassan, Shabano Hassan, MohammadAli Merchant, Anna Narzibekova, Munachimso Nwosu, Tahreem Saood, Yoora Song and Isyraf Wan Mustapha.

Honors

Seventh Grade: Mohammed Suleiman Al Tallaa, Lucas Etienne, Rafia Unissa Iqbal, Sahil Rais, Ayoub Shalouf, Harry Sleep and Leah Smith.

Eighth Grade: Samira Boumecid, Shamir Mujtaba Haider, Manal Irfan, Christian S. Jakobsen, Talha Awan Karar, Jessica Kelley and Aiman Najmuddin MD Idris.

Ninth Grade: Leonard Kolm.

DHAHRAN SCHOOL

Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.0)

Seventh Grade: Tareq Al Hasan, Zainab Ali, Layth Amra, Umaima Arif, Abdullah Ather, Adimchinobi Atisele, Nabeehah Bint Hamad, Catherine Bowes, Ibrahim Chaudhry, Sharlene Cordeiro, Hannah D'Souza, Martin Dimo, Linda Elrayes, Zain Fazal, Alexander Gieson, Raphael Gotera, Houd Hassani, Christopher Jackson, Victoria Jarrett, Kelyse Keller, Eesha Maqbool, Sara Minachi, Nur Azalea Mohammed Fadzil, Eram Mohammed, Ikhwan Mohd Raji, Juliana Morcos, Mohammad Mustafa, Mohammed Naboulsi, Olivia Nasrallah, Lisa Pachikara, Zeydan Rahman, Hamza Rehan, Ayesha Safdar, Amal Shekha, Hamza Siddiqui, Alexander Smith, Farah Ashikin Sukhairi, Youssef Taleb, Annabel Tan, Maleeha Tiwana, Aishwarya Vemulapalli and Sophia Williams.

Eighth Grade: Aiza Abbas, Rana Abdelrahim, Nurul Miza Ahmad Ridzuan, Maarya Akmal, Sanaya Baldauf, Louis Bariselle, Maria Bathish, Hamza Chaudhry, Yaser Dwaik, Grace Edmonds, Ryan Gebrael, Dina Ghandour, Yusef Lawrence, Elmiera Mohd Hanafiah, Jonathan Morcos, Areej Nauman, Hana Nguyen, Jessica Nwachukwu, Zara Pachiorka, Anshul Pattoo, Rylynn Pierson, Sumuk Rao, Ariba Rehan, Paola Rodriguez Sanguino, Nadeen Soliman and Helena Whittaker.

Ninth Grade: Nadiem Ahmed, Bilal Ali,

Kyara Andrews, Bisma Aziz, Caroline Devlin, Wasseem El Shakaa, Sergio Escobar, Sarah Haj-Maharsi, Rawan Hedefa, Mariam Ibrahim, Anvesh Jain, McKenzie Johnson, Allison Jones, Meredith Jones, Zain Khodr, Zeeshan Kunnummal, Aida Loggiodyce, Annie Lu, Isabel Manson, Laura Messinger, David Munoz, Lea Nassar, Rebecca Qin, Zakariya Rahman, Aira Saood, Alice Sardarian, Zaira Silva, Liam Stevens, Farah Sukhairi, Ameer Taib and Molly Wood.

High Honors

Seventh Grade: Saad Abdul Mateen, Karima Abou Ghanem, Mohammad Al Hasan, Leena Alsayab, Nahla Ammar, Aya Atwan, Solumtobechukwu Ayadiuno, Asmaa Badawy, Anees Busari, Sara Caves, Niklas Craul, Octavio Diaz, Sabria El Hajj, Reem Fahmy Mohamed Ali, Mikayla Gil-liam, Devon Haigler, Omar Hamad, Ahmed Hedefa, Saniya Husain, Karen Ilyia, Ahmed Iqbal, Samira Itani, Daniel Khabir, Zainab Kamal, Nada Khalil, Simrat Khalsa, Nathan Kraynyk, Christian Lesko, Sophia Li, Nikolai Lyngra, Sebastian McCoshen, Ian McLandress, Tariq Nasir, Angelia Nueva, Maryam Oloriegbe, Lubna Omair, Etienne Oshinowo, Christopher Owen, Kathleen Owens, Cyril Rafalovich, Muhammed Rajah, Maria Ramos Romero, Riwa Rassi, Nur Razally, Ahmad Rehman, Anita Rein, Refilwe Riba, Eleanor Sardarian, Sayed Sayeedi, Samuel Segovia, Minnah Shahzad, Osman Shaikh, Omar Shaltaf, Aman Shethna, Youssef Shoala, Nenyasha Shoko, Isaac Stevens, Nibras Sultan, Noor Sultan, Abhishek Suresh, Isabella Swiatkowski, Hina Tariq, Ahmad Tolba, Laiba Ullah, Sanjana Verma, Patricia Warren and Noha Zayan.

Eighth Grade: Andres Adkins, Ahmad Al Sheikh, Salman Alfariysi, Aishah Amerali, Maryam Ather, Anthony Atie, Maham Awan, Nadia Baig, Ethan Butterfield, Leizl Chavez, Glory Chima, Logan Cignoli, Sara Colombo, Julia Crisi, Danial Ejaz, Sarah El Haj Ibrahim, Zein Fakhreddine, Irdina Ghazali, Gabriel Gotera, Faariah Haider, Evan Hoy, Yufan Huo, Kamilah Idris, Abdul Rafay Imran, AbdAllah Khasawinah, Nina Krinis, Linnea Krygsman, Daood Manzoor, Maryam Masood, Jawad Muayad, Amirah Mustafa, Amirul Mustafa, Shaaan Nair, Musab Rashid, Mariam Refai, Ramez Rihani, Julia Salamy, Ensa Shahzad, Somyya Shahzad, Ayesha Shaik, Omar Shaikh, Aasir Siddiqui, Moriah Sprinkel, Fhareeha Tadamarry, Ali Taleb, Jason Ting, Nofel Tiwana, Afnan Umair, Kaitlyn Wang and Nathan Wei.

Ninth Grade: Zavar Abidi, Ali Abo Elsoud, Jana Aboul Hassan, Rami Abu Hamdan, Mustafa Abubakr, Sadaf Ansari, Benjamin Atwood, Chidinma Ayadiuno, Leena Badri, Ibrahim Bakhiet, Celia Beyers, Desh Chaudhuri, Deborah Chima, Fayza Dakwar, Zahra Daud, Abdul Rahman El Mamoun, Syed Farooq, Madeleine Flanders, Joseph Gonzalez-Sudberry, Faris Haikal, Seham Hajhusein, Jessica Hewitt, Haadi Husain, Osama Ibrahim, Sophie Igleheart, Aparna Iyer, Sierra Johnson, Jonah Kelly, Rafay Khan, Julian Kinney, Ratchamaporn Melissa Lee, Mounir Meziani, Sultan Mohamed, Amber Mohammed, Kevin Montero, Samer Najjar, Nicole Naquin, Gabriela Nieto, Mohammed Parvez, Noah Perry, Praveen Prakash, Naheel Qaisi, Anas Saadeh, Daniaal Saeed, Ndeye Ngone Sall, Tazkia Sari, Khadija Sha-

hub, Hasan Shahzad, Imran Shakoor, Hamza Sherik, Hafsa Siddiqui, Zahraa Siddiqui, Kazim Syed, Ibrahim Taleb, Anusheh Tanveer, Sabrina Watkins, Zhi Qi Zhang and Iliyeen Zulkiflie.

Honors

Seventh Grade: Aeshah Ahmed, Mennar Ahmed, Omer Ahmed, Amr Almalla, Luke Androski, Laiba Awan, Ilyas Clouse, Sarah Fawaz, Adell Gadzey, Elijah Gordon, Jude Hajhamad, Hajer Hussien, Aisyah Iskandar, Samiul Islam, Jacob Kelly, Haris Khaqan, Tala Kharbat, Austin Kim, Amanda Kinsley, Ayah Lomax, Saad Malik, Patrick McComb, Justin Merriwether, Sara Minkara, Sulman Mohamed, Hadi Nasser-Eldine, Joseph Parmenter, Lindsey Penner, Suhair Qaisi, Zack Radisic, Mohammad Saadeh, Jheeven Salvarajah, Nattanaree Saochan, Vishnu Sekar, Tawfiq Shadid, Usama Shahzad, Mahmoud Shana'a, Abdullah Soofi, Nama Taha, Jason Taylor, Hannah Teubner, Calista van der Vyver, Sana Viceer and Hanna Weber.

Eighth Grade: Amal Abbasi, Sidra Abdul Mateen, Reem Abouelnaaj, Ranyah Atwan, Raudhah Azman, Anita Baloukij, Ryan Caves, Luis Cova, Adam Fadlallah, Joshua Holloway, Kareen Homsy, Zurayn Imtiaz, Shar Iqbal, Kenan Ishwait, Kamila Lagraba, Jessica Landa, Cyrus Lesko, Sam McCoshen, Hicham Meziani, Rachel Persram, Alexander Pirvu, Bara Rababah, Narmeen Ridha, Benjamin Roth, Iya Salim, Danielle Sivertsen, Thomas Sliskovich, Tegan Smith, Patrick Sprague, Hajar Tukur, Jonathan Wilkey, Claire Young, Tala Zahdan and Syed Zaidi.

Ninth Grade: Leena Abdulrahim, Ahmad Abouelnaaj, McKenzie Aebi, Adam Al Bawab, Shahir Al Rashdan, Faris Almadi, Lubna Amer, Kiera Androski, Saad Arshad, Haby Barry, Olivia Burwell, Emily Byer, Thomas Carlock, Brandon Carswell, Omar Chatila, Jackson Crisi, Usama Ghawji, Amira Ghobrial, Mohamed Hammoud, Tarik Hassani, Anzar Imtiaz, Mohammad Iqbal, Maya Jones, Mariyah Khan, Nauman Khattak, Fabiola Killingworth, Michelle Kim, Imad Mahmood, Sarah Mansoor, Elise Mohamed, Husam Muneeb, Waleed Mustafa, Yusef Niazi, Michael Parmenter, Katherine Polega, Maria Paula Ramos Romero, Anshu Sharma, Benjamin Smith, Bradley Smith, Ibraheem Sultan, Salwa Syed, Fhaheem Tadamarry, Junaid Tariq, Zain Ullah, McHale Wiggins and Alexander Woodcock.

RAS TANURA SCHOOL

Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.0)

Seventh Grade: Nkenna Ezeano, Priyanka Gautam, Julian Robert Gomez, Nevin Joyce, John Rizk, James Robertson, Kristen Rogers, Moaad Nimer Safi, Nathaniel Swets, Ryan Updike and Amir Farid Zulkifly.

Eighth Grade: Srinidi Badhrinathan, Aksorn N D'Souza, Peter Pierre Issa, Juan Pablo Lancheros, Christian Lewandowski, Wessam Mohamed Lyzzaik, Fatimah Majid, Maria Sereno Martins, Olamide Olatunbosun, Dhanya Vinod Ramaseshan and Mariam Samir Soliman.

Ninth Grade: Dilnozahon Anvarbekova, Lina S. Bakri, Rosemarie Davidson, Kyla Mae Halud Gardiola, Elizabeth Maya Gomez, Izz Ezrie Hishamuddin, Omer Khawaja, Sean Tyler Patterson, Kawthar Safi, Meriem Satra, Miguel Servia and Laura Vecoli.

High Honors

Seventh Grade: Cristy Abanto, Nurul Hanis Hanani Ahmad Basri, Nabihah Athar, Harry Ballard, Jacinth Tagayuna Bayola, Sydney Edlund, Cristina Estevez, Vegard Hoydalsvik, Simran Nanda, Hana Khai-runisa Nugraha, Jesus Eduardo Perez, Bhinawa Putra Raja and Durra Safiyyah Shuazlan.

Eighth Grade: Aimen Abdul Raheem, Naufal Al Farras, Sarah Samih Alsyed, Saqib Ansari, Nithish Kumaran Athavan Raja, Jemima Bayola, Kimberleey Sterliza Frank, Mateusz Herok, Amna Meliha Jabbar, Anais MarieFrederique Magnan, Khushbu Rajesh Mehta, Yasmin Nahas, Alexa N. Phillips, Makaylynn Seeley, Rohan Sharma, Pranesh Suresh, Himanshu P. Umare, Stephanie Waked, Anam Zahidi Mohammad Zahidi and Mingyu James Zhong.

Ninth Grade: Hiba Abdalla, Audrix Arce, Carly Anne Beckley, Johana Abigaile Caubang, Mohamed Elshabshiri, Sammy Hamadouche, Abdullah Mohamed Sami Jawhar, Nisha Khan, Isaiah Kovacich, Natalie G. Moussallem, Abdullah Muhammed Nasir, Sarah Elizabeth Rebl, Fatimah Sarah Sakhri, Dana M. Slim, Abida A. Suboor, Ozgener Baris Yildiz, Naba Hana Zar and Farhana Nadhirah Zulkifly.

Honors

Seventh Grade: Hadil Anwar Abdalla, Reem Walid Aghnim, Wurood Sameer Al Afghani, Nicholas Albritton, Amzar Rusydi Ariffen, Habeeb Ur-Rahma Bantwal, Arielle Joyce Caubang, Ariana De Weever, Harriet Madeline Eckersley, Amirah Kamal, Ezekial Kennedy Bissah, Sana Mashadi, Andrea McGibbon, Nadia Nahas, Hurerah Nawaz, Kimberly Diane Parker, John Stephen Rebl and Saba Nidal Said.

Eighth Grade: Sebastian Burbano, Brady Campbell, Dylan Campbell, Wyatt Campbell, Esteban Guzman Diaz, Victor de Jesus Herrera, Trevor James Johnson, Louis Rennie Mack, Mendi Abigail Reed, Rosemary Anne Romero, Laiba Siddiqui and Samuel Tennis.

Ninth Grade: Saba Al Basha, Casey Holden and Keegan Ray Parker.

'UDHAILIYAH SCHOOL

Honors with Distinction (GPA: 4.0)

Seventh Grade: None.

Eighth Grade: None.

Ninth Grade: Jairo Leal and Ahmed Salem.

High Honors

Seventh Grade: Noor El Baradie, Mikayla Estrella, Evelyn Fuenmayor, Folakemi Olorode, Juliet Omini, Corban Remsburg and Maheerah Syed Haizir.

Eighth Grade: Omar Abdelaal, Ramsha Adnan, Lois Ezi, Hibah Naviwala, Azran Rahman and Yashaswi Sharma.

Ninth Grade: Rawan Ahmed, Sarah Gam-moh, Abdelwahab Metwally and Maricar Rabang.

Honors

Seventh Grade: Connor Coleman, Bas-haier Jama, Sarah Mahon, Mohamed Metwally and Nabila Siregar.

Eighth Grade: Diab Elgizooli, Xiana Russell and Aaron Wilson.

Ninth Grade: Lukman Abdul Halim, Nada Abdulaziz, Christina Bolarinwa, Mason Coleman, Soumya Deep Haldar, Balqees Jama, Afzal Mahmood and Nadin Nassar.

Movies

DHAHRAN

RED 2, starring Bruce Willis, Helen Mirren (action, PG-13) – May 14 and 16, 5:30 p.m.; May 15 and 17, 8 p.m.
THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY, starring Ben Stiller, Kristin Wiig (comedy, PG-13) – May 14 and 16, 8 p.m.; May 15 and 17, 5:30 p.m.
MANDELA: LONG WALK TO FREEDOM, starring Adris Elba, Naomie Harris (biography, PG-13) – May 18, 5:30 p.m.; May 21, 8 p.m.
PLANES, starring Dane Cook, Stacy Keach (animated, PG) – May 18, 8 p.m.; May 21, 5:30 p.m.

'UDHAILIYAH

NOW YOU SEE ME, starring Jesse Eisenberg, Mark Ruffalo (crime, PG-13) – May 14 and 16, 5 p.m.; May 15 and 17, 8 p.m.
KON-TIKI, starring Pal Sverre Hagen (adventure, PG-13) – May 14 and 16, 8 p.m.; May 15 and 17, 5 p.m.
ALL IS LOST, starring Robert

Redford (adventure, PG-13) – May 18, 5 p.m.; May 21, 8 p.m.
SMURFS 2, starring Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harris (animation, family, PG) – May 18, 8 p.m.; May 21, 5 p.m.

ABQAIQ

ESCAPE PLAN, starring Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger (mystery, R) – May 14 and 16, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
IRON MAN 3, starring Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow (action, PG-13) – May 15 and 17, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2, starring Bill Hader, Anna Faris (animation, PG) – May 18, 5 and 7:30 p.m.
THE WOLVERINE, starring Hugh Jackman, Will Yun Lee (sci-fi, PG-13) – May 21, 5 and 7:30 p.m.

NAJMA

AFTER EARTH, starring Jaden Smith, Will Smith (sci-fi, PG-13) – May 14 and 16, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.
ENDER'S GAME, starring Asa Butterfield, Harrison Ford (sci-fi, PG-13) – May 15 and 17, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.
ESCAPE PLAN, (mystery, R) – May 21, 4:45 and 7:30 p.m.

THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY: A day dreamer escapes his anonymous life by disappearing into a world of fantasies filled with heroism, romance and action. When his job and his co-worker are threatened, he takes action in the real world by embarking on a global journey that turns into an adventure more extraordinary than anything he could have ever imagined.
CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2: Flint Lockwood now works at The Live Corp. company for his idol Chester V. But he's forced to leave his post when he learns that his most infamous machine is still operational and is churning out menacing food-animal hybrids.
ESCAPE PLAN: When a structural security authority finds himself set up and incarcerated in the world's most secret and secure prison, he has to use his skills to escape with help from the inside.

Sudoku

Easy
Each row, column and 3-by-3 square must contain only one of each digit, from 1-9.

Last week's answer

9	2	4	1	3	6	7	5	8
1	7	6	8	5	2	9	4	3
5	8	3	9	4	7	1	6	2
8	4	9	2	6	5	3	7	1
3	6	2	7	1	4	8	9	5
7	5	1	3	9	8	4	2	6
6	3	7	4	2	1	5	8	9
4	9	5	6	8	3	2	1	7
2	1	8	5	7	9	6	3	4

(C) yoogi.com

6		3					8	
			2			7		
	5			9				1
		9	1		8		6	
		4				2		
	7		6		2	1		
4				6			2	
		7			3			
	8					9		7

Crossword answer

Crossword answer

A	F	I	E	L	I	S	A	I	D	S	S	S	E	P	B	S
R	E	S	O	R	T	O	G	R	I	T	T	I	M	B	R	E
C	E	N	T	E	R	O	F	G	R	A	V	I	T	E	N	T
A	L	T	I	O	T	O	E	O	L	I	V	E	A	W	N	S
D	E	I	S	T	S	C	R	E	A	T	I	V	E	W	R	I
E	R	N	A	K	A	P	S	S	T	O	Y	E	D			
			L	I	M	P		S	U	L	U	A	S	F	A	R
			S	M	O	K	E	Y	A	N	D	T	H	E	B	A
			S	C	O	U	T	S	L	E	O	F	U	E	L	E
			P	H	O	T	O	O	M	A	H	A	O	U	S	T
			F	U	J	I	E	X	S	T	A	G	E	L	E	F
			M	U	E	S	L	I	A	D	O	P	T	E	R	E
			L	A	I	H	A	D	A	G	O	E	N	O	P	R
			I	N	C	E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	I	C	I
			V	N	E	C	K		C	O	O	L	H	E	X	A
			R	E	A	D	E		D	O	S	E	A	T		
			B	U	I	L	D	I	N	G	P	E	R	M	S	
			M	E	S	S		R	O	T	O	R	E	E	E	S
			C	L	U	E	S	I	N	F	O	R	G	E	T	
			A	L	A	S	K	A	N	E	V	O	O	A	L	I
			T	E	L	A	N	E	R	E	I	N	T	E	N	D



■ This construction site was for a new public school in Qatif, one of the seven that the company built in 1970. According to an agreement with the government, the company built 37 new schools, for girls and boys, and paid their operation and maintenance costs.

Crossword

"BODY LANGUAGE" By ROBIN STEARS

ACROSS
1 Cold mold
6 Remove pieces from?
11 Stay-at-home ones, perhaps
15 Disappearing slope apparatus
19 Isabella, por ejemplo
20 Largest of the Cyclades
21 Peace Nobel
22 Nobel
23 Bit of roomy footwear?
25 Fresh, in a way
26 Tiger's ex
27 Puts away, as a dagger
28 Iron Man's coat?
30 Escalator feature
31 Sour notes
32 "The Racer's Edge"
35 Phoenix team, on scoreboards
36 Home to 1 billion
38 One vis-à-vis three, at times
42 Shriill morning awaker?
45 Ring of Fire danger
46 Divvy up
47 Jack up
48 Got ready to drive
49 45, e.g.
50 Dole (out)
51 Bits of holly
53 Influence unfairly
54 Opposite of ecto-
55 Boat-steering tool
56 Wood stove, for one
58 Grade school quintet
59 AutoZone inventory?
65 Hawaii museum section?
67 Say "y'all," say
68 Acapulco beaches
70 Charlottesville sch.
71 Gym series
72 Instrument played with a mallet
73 Follow orders
76 Quipsters
80 Brown, in old ads
81 1998 N.L. MVP
82 Paroxysm
83 Pago Pago's nation

84 Airport arrival
86 Clothing store shoplifters?
89 Spotted
90 Least significant
91 Fed. auditing agency
92 Talk trash to
93 Department
95 Connection
97 The old one-two?
100 It joined the Union in 1876
103 Jamaican tangelo
104 Sliding
105 Put down a high school subject?
108 Bed board
109 Oscar winner
Hathaway
110 Spanish bar
servings
111 Chew the scenery
112 Now Look dolls, e.g.
113 Drain cleaners
114 Oodles

115 Less cracked?
DOWN
1 Chihuahua greeting
2 Seven
3 Essence
4 Map of Hawaii, often
5 Falls
6 Release
7 Au naturel
8 Line in math class
9 Burgundy of film
10 Controversial flavor enhancer
11 Lifting device
12 Smith graduate
13 Got a C-plus, say
14 Sibyls
15 High-level disloyalty
16 2008 Asian Beach Games host
17 Similar (to)
18 "Seasons of Love" musical
24 Cheri of "SNL"
28 "... a grin without a cat!"

thinker
29 Self-important
31 Stick with a net
32 Annoying messages
33 Domino, for one
34 Pound repeatedly
36 Berry rich in antioxidants
37 Capricious
39 Country by the River Shribble
40 Caveat
41 Curl around the hole's edge
without going in, in golf lingo
43 School of the future?
44 "Stay off my turf!"
45 Sad
48 Bit of ticket info
51 Pouch
52 Ask for a hand?
53 A/C unit
54 Neurofeedback readout

55 Sugar suffix
57 Pigeonholes
58 Gasteyer of "Suburgatory"
59 Wade through
60 Hebrew leaders?
61 Turns to confetti
62 Some ESPN highlights
63 It parallels the radius
64 Unlikely derby winner
66 Wrigley Field feature
69 Increasingly sore
72 Cherished prize
74 More than half
75 Memento from a bill-signing ceremony
76 "Do __ Diddy Diddy": 1964 hit
77 Pinged, in a way
78 Famous Amos
79 Get smart with
81 Shade of gray
82 "Presumed Innocent" author

83 Calamity causes
85 Choice morsels
86 Men of La Mancha
87 Eternal
88 Phylum or genus, e.g.
90 Sam who worked with Coach and Woody
94 Key material
95 Itinerant
96 Hayek of "Frida"
97 Evenfall
98 Look like a wolf?
99 __ Bator
100 Corrida cloak
101 "Runaround Sue" singer
102 Prefix meaning "bone"
105 Bernard and Bonaventure: Abbr.
106 Varnish ingredient
107 " __ Town Too": 1981 hit

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19					20					21				22			
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112										114							

DYBA teams travel to Dubai for weekend tourney

JAMES LEMMONS
DUBAI — Four Dhahran Youth Baseball Association (DYBA) teams recently participated in the Dubai Little League Invitational Baseball Tournament held April 17-19.

Teams from Singapore, Australia, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain, as well as Dubai, participated.

The Dhahran Seniors baseball team (U15) completed the weekend road trip with a 2-2 record. Jordan Hajazin, Parker Hancock, Homer Guerrero, Chris Adusei-Poku and Jonathan Wilkey led the way with strong batting. Solid pitching by Parker Hancock, Jonathan Wilkey and Patrick Sprague led the Senior team to a no-hit game against Qatar and solid efforts throughout the weekend, with coaches Jeff Hancock, Rod Kraynyk, Ron Sprague and Steven Cook guiding the squad.

The Saudi Majors 2 team (U12) also ended the weekend

with a 2-2 record. Strong hitting was highlighted by Alex Smith, who homered against Bahrain, Connor Hancock, Nic Waite, Ziyad Husain, and Andrew Hoegsberg, who also homered against Singapore. Coaches Rich Gieson, Brian Hoegsberg and Chris Waite guided the Majors 2 squad.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Majors 1 team (U12) ended the weekend with a 2-1-1 record. A thunderous home run by Marcus Kinney inspired the team to a tie game with league powerhouse Singapore. The team was coached by Ben and Marc Hallberg and Jon Kinney.

The Saudi Minors (U10) team also competed, winning three of four games during the weekend. Timely hitting by Jake Williams, Blake Koenning and Victor Eleano led the way. Excellent pitching performances by Ryan Neumann, Daniel Adusei-Poku, Christina Waite, Aashish Suresh, and Jake Williams led to a win-



■ A Dhahran player advances to second base on a play against Bahrain in the recent Dubai Little League Invitational Baseball Tournament. Four Dhahran teams competed in the three-day tourney.

ning record in the tournament. Coaching the team was Wallace Koenning and Waite, who was also DYBA's tournament coordi-

nator. DYBA offers its members a wide variety of baseball activities for boys and girls from ages 5 to

16, including professional training and an opportunity to compete in international and local tournaments.

Bulletin Board

Driver's Education: The Dhahran Recreation Services Division is pleased to announce the 2014 Driving Education Program. This program offers "behind the wheel" safety and driving skills training for GC 11+ male dependents who are 16 or older. Completion of this course will not allow students to legally drive in Saudi Arabia or on Saudi Aramco facilities. Once a student reaches the legal age to drive in Saudi Arabia, he may take the course completion certificate to the driving school, where he can complete a final test to obtain his driving license. English classes will be June 1-5 and June 15-19. Arabic classes will be June 15-19, June 22-26, Aug. 3-8, Aug. 10-14, Aug. 17-21 and Aug. 24-28. Each participant may enroll in only one of the sessions. Each course will run five days and will consist of a theory class from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and a three hour behind-the-wheel class 12:30-3:30 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays. Cost is SR1,100 through payroll deduction. Classes will be at Al-Waha South (Building 4156, Room 3).

Dhahran Oasis Quilt Guild: This week's meetings for the Dhahran Oasis Quilt Guild will be held Monday, May 19 from 1-3 p.m. and again on Tuesday, May 20, from 5:50-7 p.m. Meetings are held at the Quilt House on Karl Street. If you are interested in learning the art of quilting, please join us. All skill levels welcome.

Community Education: The Office of Community Education is pleased to announce that Spring Session courses will continue until June 26. These courses offer a wide variety of academic, recreational and high interest pursuits. Employees may register themselves and their dependents — who meet eligibility requirements — online at http://sas.aramco.com/sa/sas/contentAction.do?name=comm_ed_home. Booklets containing course information are available at the Customer Care Centers. Please note that courses — when they become full, are canceled or when they reach registration deadlines — will be closed for registration and removed from the website.

Women's Groups
Dhahran Women's Group (DWG): All events at Baker House (1425 Holmes Circle) unless otherwise noted. Events in May include: **(Saturday, May 17)** Bake and Garage Sale from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Baker House. **(Friday, May 24)** Zumbathon 1-4 p.m. at Ad-Diwan. **(Thursday, May 29)** Arabian Nights Founder's Day 7-10 p.m. at Al-Waha. Daily activities include: Nia with Manal **(Sundays and Thursdays, 9-10 a.m.);**

BaileActivo Exercise Class **(8:45-9:45 a.m. Tuesdays and 4:45-5:45 p.m. on Wednesdays);** Zumba with Lamiia **(Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-5:30 p.m.);** Mindfulness Drop-In Class **(Tuesdays 5:30-6:30 p.m.);** Kids Music Movement Drop-In Classes **(Thursdays 8:45-9:30 a.m. and 9:45-10:30 a.m.);** and Baileoterapia **(Wednesdays 8:30-9:30 a.m.).** The Baker House is open 8:30-11 a.m. on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:30-11:30 a.m. on Monday, and 3-5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It is closed on company holidays. For info, call 872-0632 or visit www.dhahranwomensgroup.com.

Sports
Golfing lessons: Rolling Hills Golf Club is delighted to introduce beginners and newcomers to the game of golf with "Golf in a Week," an in-depth program covering all you need to know to get out on the course. The program, conducted in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, runs evenings from May 25-29, with all equipment and range balls supplied. Cost is only SR600. Email stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com for info, or stop by the pro shop to sign up.

Medical
To comment on this information, please email Jacqueline.Mullen@aramco.com. Telephone contacts have been provided below, where possible, for dependents and retirees.
Employees are to access medical information online:
• **Calendar of Health Care Events** <http://samso> > Health Education > Calendar of Health Care Events > Campaigns / Lectures and Webinars / Programs — for more information / to register for activities.
• **News from Medical online:** <http://samso> > Announcements: What's New in Medical.
Safety Message: A severe electrical shock can cause considerably more damage than meets the eye. A victim may suffer internal hemorrhages and destruction of tissues, nerves, and muscles that aren't readily visible. Renal damage also can occur. If you or a co-worker receives a shock, seek emergency medical help immediately.

SAMSO Registered Patients for All Areas
• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for fire.
• **Medical Services on myhome Corporate Portal:** To access multiple medical services, visit the Corporate Portal <http://myhome> > myInformation > Medical: to make and cancel appointments; access medication information, (process refills; request refills; renew prescrip-

Medical Services

- **Appointments:** To make Medical or Dental appointments, visit <http://myhome> > myInformation > Medical or call 800-305-4444 (in Kingdom) or +966-013-877-3888 (out of Kingdom).
- **For info,** visit <http://samso>.
- **Have Healthcare Joint Venture questions?** Email Healthcare.JV@aramco.com.
- **Help with your healthcare:** Medical Customer Service Network (MCSN), email mcsn@aramco.com or phone 800-305-4444 (in-Kingdom) or +966-13-877-3888 (out-of-Kingdom).
- **Urgent health care access helpline** for MDF patients, call 055-600-0468 (after 4 p.m.).
- **Feeling Stressed?** Have psychological, emotional or social problems? For a Community Counseling Clinic appointment, call 013-877-8400.
- **Quit Smoking.** Medical Services is offering to help all employees, dependents, contractors and retirees quit smoking. Email SmokingCessation@aramco.com.

tion from physicians; check request status and access drug information) change medical providers; access latest recorded results for cholesterol, blood glucose levels or hemoglobin levels; immunizations records; blood group certificates; release of medical information; no-show history; dental bill; or to retain SMS reminders details.
• **SMS Reminder:** Never miss a medical/dental appointment again; register for the SMS reminder service. Update your mobile number on the Corporate Portal at <http://myhome> > myInformation > Medical > "Maintain SMS Reminder Details." Dependents call 800-305-4444 to activate or deactivate the SMS reminder services and update a mobile number. SMS reminders are sent 48 hours in advance of the appointment date to all patients registered for the service who booked an appointment 48 hours or more before the appointment date.

Medical Designated Facilities Department (MDFD) Registered Patients:
• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone — dial 997 for ambulance 997 and 998 for fire.
• **Help with your health care:** For Medical Customer Service Network (MCSN), email mcsn@aramco.com or call 800-305-4444 (in-Kingdom) or +966-013-877-3888 (out-of-Kingdom).
• **Make a medical, dental or mental health appointment:** View the

MDF list of contacts and website links at <http://samso> > Hospitals and Clinics Contacts > MDF.

Abqaiq
• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire. From your mobile phone inside Abqaiq, dial (013) 572-0110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for fire.
• **Campaign — Pharmacy Medication Refill** at Abqaiq Health Center 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.

Al-Hasa
• **Campaign — Pharmacy Medication Refill** at Al-Hasa Health Center 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.
• **Dental:** Patients from al-Hasa should go to the Abqaiq or 'Udhailiyah dental clinics.
• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. Dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for the fire department.

Dhahran
• **Al-Midra Wellness Center** offers consultations, lifestyle wellness coaching and with health screenings (Sunday-Thursday, 1-3:30 p.m.) and other services including blood donation (Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon) and pharmacy (Sunday-Thursday, noon-4 p.m.) For info, visit <http://samso> > A-Z Services > Al-Midra Wellness Center.
• **Are you pregnant?** Attend the Pregnancy Wellness Program in Arabic or in English. To register, email SamsoPregnancyWellness@exchange.aramco.com. (You must be 12 weeks or more into a pregnancy.) Register for the Pregnancy Tour — Mother and Baby Unit (3H) in Arabic or in English Tour starts 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month. To register, email fares@aramco.com. (You must be 30 weeks or more into your pregnancy.) For more information about both programs, visit <http://samso> > Health Education > Calendar of Health Care Events > Programs.
• **Become a volunteer:** To volunteer, you must be in good health, at least 18 and have a good understanding of English. Email Faten.muslem@aramco.com with your educational background and skills, and how many days per week and hours per day you can volunteer.
• **Campaign — Medical Relations Unit: Wednesday and Thursday, May 14-15,** at Dhahran Health Center Lobby (Building 61) from 8 a.m.-noon and 4-6 p.m..

• **Campaign — Pharmacy Medication Refill: Wednesday, May 14,** at Al-Midra Tower from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; **Thursday, May 15,** at Dhahran EXPEC basement from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
• **Campaign — World No Tobacco Day: Monday, May 26,** at Al-Midra Tower from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
• **Donate Blood** at Dhahran Health Center (Sunday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-2

p.m.) and at Al-Midra Tower Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon. Call the Blood Bank at (013) 877-6770/6638 during regular working hours or register online <http://samso> > A-Z Services > Blood Donation. Thank you for your gift of life.

• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire. From your mobile phone inside Saudi Aramco, dial (013) 872-0110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for fire department.
• **Help with your health care:** For Medical Customer Service Network (MCSN), email mcsn@aramco.com or call 800-305-4444 (in-Kingdom) or +966-013-877-3888 (out-of-Kingdom).

Ras Tanura
• **Campaign — Pharmacy Medication Refill** at Ras Tanura Health Center 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, May 14.
• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire department. From your mobile phone inside Ras Tanura, dial (013) 673-0110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance or 998 for fire department.

'Udhailiyah
• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire department. From your mobile phone inside Ras Tanura, dial (013) 576-7110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance or 998 for the fire department.

SAEA
Tickets currently on sale for: Coach to Bahrain's City Center every Saturday, An Evening at the Movies, Sparky's Entertainment Center, Al Rashid Entertainment Center, Formula Kart KSA in Dammam; RamRoma Land at Venecia Mall in al-Khobar and Marina Mall in Dammam; Formula Kart at Happy Land; and Billy Beez at Dhahran Mall. Lost Paradise in Bahrain tickets are on sale now only at the SAEA office. Tickets are on sale for the following: **Parent and Child Pottery Decoration** (May 23); **SAEA/ICC Concert Fad' Nu Portuguese Music** (June 12); **SAEA/DTG Dinner Theater "Grandma's Last Stand"** (June 12 and 13, and June 19 and 20). The SAEA office is open from Sunday to Thursday, 3-5 p.m. for ticket sales. SAEA is at 1424 King's Road and Monday's at Al-Midra from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information, please call the office at 872-1107. Download the SAEA Dateline newsletter at <http://sharek/orgs/30002961/Self%20Directed%20Group/Documents/Dhahran/Special%20Interest%20Groups/SAEA/dateline.pdf>.

Strong winds rip through Dhahran, region

DHAHRAN — On April 30, a supercell storm passed by the eastern region of Saudi Arabia and Riyadh, causing a strong downdraft wind that damaged property and uprooted trees.

During its peak, wind speeds reached 104 km/h in Dhahran as recorded by the Environmental Protection Department's (EPD) weather station. This speed lasted for only a few minutes.

The storm moved from the northwest of Saudi Arabia toward the southeast, where high wind speeds and rain was reported in several weather stations in the Kingdom.

EPD's weather station in Riyadh reported a wind speed of 111 km/h at 4:46 p.m. on the same day. Also, Haradh and Shedgum EPD stations reported 91 km/h at 8:31 and 7:31 p.m., respectively.

Despite the high speeds of the winds, it did not exceed the possible 145 km/h of a downdraft wind.

Dhahran climate data shows that the highest recorded wind speed previously during the month of April was 95.8 km/h in 1993.

However, the highest recorded wind in Dhahran was 122 km/h in February 1950.

Library Week highlights heart of community

SCOTT BALDAUF

DHAHRAN — Dhahran Recreation Library conducted its annual Library Week from April 29 through May 2. Hosted by the library's staff, along with the Upstream Information Center, Technical Information Center, Libraries and Learning Group and Mobile Library, Library Week is a chance to highlight the value of libraries, librarians and library workers and showcase how libraries contain the power to change lives for the better.

Libraries often serve as the heart of the community. Libraries are places where patrons can research topics of personal interest or of local importance. Students can find quiet, comfortable places to study. Small children can come for story time, and learn the love of books. And for those who simply need a place of solace, libraries can be a place to unwind. Libraries are trusted places where everyone in the community can gather to reconnect and reengage with each other to enrich their lives.

Assistant library coordinator Randy Robertshaw gave opening remarks at the Al-Midra launching ceremony for Library Week, and welcomed management from Community Services such as manager Abdullah A. Ghabbani and administrator Turki H. Rayyani, along with book vendors and esteemed authors, such as former executive vice president Nassir M. Al-Ajmi.

Library coordinator Afaf Al Jefri said that Dhahran Recreation Library and other community libraries at Saudi Aramco have



Photo: Ahmad El Itani/MPD

■ Employees peruse books at the Tower Building in Dhahran as part of the weeklong celebration of the company's various community libraries.

always looked for new ways to reach out to the community that they serve.

"Service to our community has always been the focus of the library," said Al Jefri. "While this aspect has never changed, libraries have grown and evolved in how they provide for the needs of every member of their community."

Here are some of the services that Dhahran Recreation Library and 16 other company libraries around the Kingdom provide:

- A constantly updated selection of the latest books, CDs, DVDs, Blu-ray, periodicals in Arabic and English.
- Arabic and English story times, including for preschoolers and toddlers.
- Classes to learn Arabic.
- Cooking demonstrations.
- Special guest speakers.
- And Arabic book club.

Library Week got an early start on April 25, with a "Meet the Author" event held at the Dhahran Theater. Children's author

Arwa Khomayyies met with an enthusiastic crowd to discuss her 14 books, including the three-book Arabic language children's book series "Roomi."

Starting April 29, Dhahran Recreation Library and its guest libraries showcased their materials and services with a kick off at Al-Midra, where Community Services executive director Hani Abu Khadra welcomed special guests, including local authors who sold and signed their books for attendees. Vendors with Arabic and English books and educational games were also present at the Al-Midra event. On April 30 the show moved to the Tower Building, and the final two days took place at King's Park, where special activities included games for children, contests, story times and prizes.

After its time in Dhahran main camp, Library Week shifted to the Ar-Rakah compound in al-Khobar on May 3, and to Al-Munirah compound on May 5.

The Dhahran Recreation Library oversees 16 company libraries throughout the Kingdom. The library is open 365 days a year, Saturday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Dhahran Recreation Library serves to educate, enlighten and empower every member in its community by providing free access to information, ideas, and knowledge through books, programs, and digital resources.

More information is available online at <http://sharek/orgs/30002961/Library/Pages/Library.aspx>.

Readers Album

A burst of dance, a burst of color

■ Rafael V. Castillo captured this colorful image of warriors in costume and headgear at the Dinagyang Festival of Iloilo, an island in the central Philippines. Castillo was on vacation in January and watched the annual group dance competition. Castillo lives in Najmah and works at the Ju'aymah Gas Plant in the Maintenance Department as a senior process control systems technician. He has been with the company for 27 years.

